

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

In this response, claim 1 has been amended via a) deletion of the subject matter of original claim 6 and b) the addition of a limitation which further defines the purpose of the cover and its configuration.

A new claim containing the subject matter of claim 6 removed from claim 1, is added as new claim 14. New claims 15 -19 are also presented from examination.

Claims 6 and 10 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-19 are therefore presented for re-examination.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103

The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 US § 103(a) as being anticipated by Tada et al. (U.S. Patent 2002/0109674), is respectfully traversed.

In this response claim 1 has been amended in a manner which calls for the cover to be configured so as to have a portion configured for an operator to rest a palm of a hand thereon in a manner wherein the palm is ergonomically supported and wherein fingers of the hand are free to engage the movable part of the trackball. It is submitted that the Tada et al. reference is devoid of a cover with a palm supporting portion and thus fails to disclose or suggest the structure now claimed. Support for the amendments proposed above are found on page 3, lines 6-11 of the originally filed specification.

New Claims

As noted above, the subject matter is removed from claim 1 and is re-presented as new claim 14. No issues which have not been previously presented result from this movement of originally subject matter.

Claims 15 -18 are also presented for examination. Independent claim 15 calls for a trackball which has a movable element, and a cover inside which the trackball is disposed. The cover which encloses the trackball is required to have an opening through which a portion of the movable element of the trackball is exposed for manual manipulation, and an integral palm

support portion configured for an operator to rest a palm of a hand thereon in a manner wherein the palm is supported and wherein fingers of the hand are free to engage the exposed portion of the movable element. Claim 16 defines the movable element as being a ball. Claim 17 calls for a window which enables access to the trackball device. Claim 18 further delimits the window of claim 17. Claim 19 defines the trackball as being part of an aircraft instrument panel.

It is submitted that the art which is applied in this Office Action neither discloses nor suggests such a structure. Support for the new claims is found in the originally filed drawings and specification. See page 5, lines 1-21 and Fig. 3, of the originally filed specification, for example.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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